East Coast Railway Zone

5136. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to start the East Coast Railway Zone immediately;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to finalise the territorial jurisdiction; and

(c) what is the reason for reducing the Budget allocation of East Coast Railway Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, it is not possible to indicate any time frame right now.

(c) The entire issue of re-organisation is under review in the light of resource crunch presently faced by the Railways.

Easy access to Anand Vihar Railway Station

5137. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4262, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1998 and state:

(a) what progress has since been made by the Ministry to remove the blockade from the approach roads and settling the matter with civil authorities and concerned residents' association;

(b) whether Government would fix responsibility of the officials concerned for not taking appropriate action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's next course of action to ensure free and easy access to Anand Vihar Railway Station from Anand Vihar colony side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As there was no favourable response from the residents association, the Deputy Commissioner East District, Delhi, who is the Civil Authority concerned in this matter, has been requested to get the gates removed.

(b) Railways have already taken appropriate action within their purview.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railway has already brought the matter to the notice of Civil Authorities who are competent to take necessary action to get the gates removed, as these gates are located outside railway land.

Electrification of Ernakulam-Cape Camorin rail line

5138. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps being taken to begin electrification of rail line from Ernakulam to Cape Camorin via Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Electrification of rail line from Ernakulam to Trivandrum has been included in the Railway Budget 1999-2000, subject to necessary clearances, which are in the process of being obtained. There is no proposal, at present, to extend electrification beyond Trivandrum to Cape Camorin (Kanya Kumari) due to constraint of resources and priority for other high traffic density routes.

Discontinuation Palghat coach from Trivandrum-Canannor Express

5139. SHRI CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of attaching a Palghat coach with the Trivandrum-Canannor Express and Mangalapuram Express was disconnected for some time;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would consider a proposal to resume the attaching of this compartment, considering the difficulties being faced by the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There was no Palghat coach as stated. The reference is perhaps to the following two slip coaches:—

(i) One First-cum-sleeper class coach was being attached at Shoranur. This coach was running between Chennai and Trivandrum by 6329/6330 Malabar Express & 6627/6628 West Coast Express. This coach was withdrawn w.e.f. 15.8.98 in order to improve punctuality of the trains.